



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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OPEN HOUSE HELD FOR PENDER MERCY MEDICAL CLINIC

Pender, Neb., November 3, 2002--An Open House and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony were held today in Pender for the newly expanded and renovated Pender Mercy Medical Clinic. The clinic improvements will significantly enhance the delivery of health care to the over 17,000 individuals that the clinic serves.

“The providers and staff are proud to be a part of the renovation of our health care facility. Quality care has always been our main objective and with our “new” facility we look forward to meeting the ever-changing health care needs of our patients,” stated Colleen Weborg, office manager of the Pender Mercy Medical Clinic.

The 5,235 square foot addition to the physician clinic along with 5,200 square feet of renovations provides ADA compliant clinic space that adequately accommodates 6 physicians, 2 physician assistants and the current patient workload. Through the improvements, the clinic now houses 18 exam rooms, 6 physician offices, ancillary support spaces such as a waiting area, business office, medical records, lab, supply rooms and an additional procedure room. The pharmacy, now equipped with a drive through window, has been relocated in the clinic to an area, which allows access to its services after the clinic operations have closed.

The existing clinic consisted of a 6,630-sq. ft. single story structure with a partial basement of 3,654-sq. ft. The facility could no longer meet the space needs of the growing clinic and ADA compliance issues were also a concern. Restrooms, exam rooms, doors and other items needed to be renovated to bring the facility into compliance with the ADA.

Norman Christiansen, foundation chairperson commented, “The clinic was originally constructed in 1971 and has served thousands of patients in Thurston, Dixon, Dakota, Cuming, Burt and Wayne counties. The expansion was greatly needed and we are thrilled with the results.”



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The clinic improvements were made possible through a \$600,000 loan to the Pender Community Health Care Foundation, Inc. which was originated by the Pender State Bank and guaranteed by USDA Rural Development. Joining these funds were a direct loan of \$550,000 provided by USDA Rural Development. Project costs totaled \$1,355,034 with the Foundation contributing the balance of the funds needed.

"Pender State Bank is very happy to have played a part in Pender Mercy Medical Clinic's expansion and renovations. The improvements to the clinic together with the newly added addition to our community's hospital, offers the residents of Pender and surrounding areas top medical services and health care providers," stated Kenny Kast, senior loan officer for Pender State Bank. "Rural communities must invest in themselves to thrive and Pender State Bank believes in investing in its hometown community."

"It is rewarding to be a part of bringing improved health care to rural Nebraska," stated Bob Prochaska, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development. "Striving to improve the quality of life in rural communities and to assist them in meeting their growing needs is what we do at USDA Rural Development."

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